



MOSTI

STANDARDS
MALAYSIA

**DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS MALAYSIA
SCHEME FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF CERTIFICATION BODIES
(The ACB Scheme)**

ACB 5

Issue 2, 15 February 2007

**RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS AS BEING APPROPRIATE FOR ACCREDITED
CERTIFICATION**

Authority To Issue

**Director General
Department of Standards Malaysia**

INDEX

	TOPIC	PAGE
1.	Purpose of the document	1
2.	References	1
3.	Background	1
4.	Policy	2
5.	Implementation	3

1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

- 1.1 This document details the STANDARDS MALAYSIA general policy regarding its recognition of standards in respect of which it will offer accreditation programmes.
- 1.2 This policy shall apply to all accreditation programmes, other than where the Advisory Council has determined a different policy for a specific programme.
- 1.3 In the case of management systems, for example, this policy relates to the standard for the management system that an applicant for STANDARDS MALAYSIA accredited certification has to comply with. In the case of personnel certification it relates to the standard (possibly covering areas such as qualifications, training and experience) that an applicant for STANDARDS MALAYSIA accredited certification/registration must meet.
- 1.4 This policy shall remain current until amended, replaced or withdrawn.

2. REFERENCES

- 2.1 MS ISO/IEC Guide 62: General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems
- 2.2 IAF GD 2 – Interpretive Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 62
- 2.3 World Trade Organisation Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Annex 3 -Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Some international guidance on this subject is to be found in clause 2.1.1.3 of MS ISO/IEC Guide 62, which relates to quality systems. It states that "the criteria against which the quality system of an applicant is assessed shall be those outlined in the quality system standards or other normative documents relevant to the function performed". In the IAF GD 2 it states in addition that any certification standard shall be "publicly available".
- 3.2 Annex 3 to the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade refers to the need to achieve a national consensus on standards that are being developed and the need to avoid duplication or overlap with the work of relevant international standardising bodies. Consequently, STANDARDS MALAYSIA should give recognition to relevant international standards and avoid encouraging duplication of the activities of ISO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international standards writing bodies.
- 3.3 It is necessary for STANDARDS MALAYSIA to have regard to the content of the standard that is to be used as the basis for accredited certification, because it needs to consider what competencies are required of the certification body to enable it to assess compliance effectively and reliably. Also, the scope of the accreditation granted by STANDARDS MALAYSIA must make reference to the standards for which the certification body is considered competent to audit and make certification decisions.

4. POLICY

4.1 An accreditation programme shall only be offered in respect of a standard that:

a) is produced by STANDARDS MALAYSIA, ISO, IEC or another international standards making body that is recognised by the World Trade Organization; where that body regards the standard¹ as being appropriate for accredited certification; or

b) is used by a national or State regulatory authority in a regulatory context and is regarded by them as being a standard that is appropriate for accredited certification²; or

c) is a standard that meets the following criteria:

- has been developed with the participation of technically competent representatives of interested parties, or has been subjected to formal review by such parties and subsequently revised as appropriate;
- is such that it is possible to assess whether an applicant is in compliance;
- has credibility with industry, appropriate regulatory authorities and relevant professional groups;
- is periodically reviewed and updated with the involvement of representatives of interested parties;
- is publicly available for implementation without restriction by number or membership or other limitation³.

4.2 However, the accreditation programme for occupational safety and health shall only be offered if the standard satisfies para 4.1 a) above, or any other standard which the certification body has obtained prior written agreement from the Malaysian regulatory body on occupational safety and health.

4.3 STANDARDS MALAYSIA Secretariat may seek advice on whether a standard meets the above criteria from the appropriate Technical Working Group and also from appropriate regulatory authorities.

¹ In this context the term "standard" includes an interim-standard

² In such cases, the scope of accreditation of a certification body would normally make reference to the regulatory authority or authorities concerned

³ The levying of a reasonable fee for the purchase of the standard would not be regarded as a restriction or limitation, but, for example, the imposition of a fee as a condition of the implementation of the standard would be likely to be regarded as such.

4.4 Continued recognition by STANDARDS MALAYSIA of a standard may be reviewed in the event of significant amendment to the standard or changed circumstances that affect its compliance with these criteria.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 This Policy shall not apply retrospectively.